



State Representative Justin Pizzulli

Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 320

House Transportation Committee

April 23rd, 2024

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and esteemed colleagues of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 320, which seeks to designate a portion of OH-125 as the Al Oliver Highway.

Mr. Oliver stands as a Major League Baseball (MLB) legend and a distinguished southern Ohioan, hailing from Portsmouth. He attributes his success to his faith, serving as a registered minister and ordained deacon, exemplifying his commitment beyond the ballfield.

Throughout his impressive career with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Mr. Oliver marked many achievements, including three Silver Slugger Awards and seven All-Star recognitions, bringing immense pride not only to Portsmouth but to the entirety of Ohio. With over 2,700 hits and an impressive .303 batting average, his legacy continues to inspire many today.

In 2013, the Portsmouth City Council aptly appointed Mr. Oliver as "Mr. Ambassador" for the City of Portsmouth, acknowledging his many contributions to the community. He is also immortalized on our iconic Portsmouth Floodwall Murals.

His accomplishments on and off the field are matched by his integrity, character, and dedication. I ask your support for this bill not only to honor a local hero, but to serve as a constant reminder of the potential each one of us has to achieve greatness no matter who we are or where we come from. It would be a piece of daily inspiration for our youth and source of great pride for all Ohioans who travel this route.

Thank you, and may God bless us all.